

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation  
South Carolina Public Service Authority

Docket No. CP99-392-000  
Docket No. CP00-17-000  
and CP00-19-000

(Issued May 22, 2000)

HÉBERT, Commissioner, *concurring*:

This order issues a certificate of public convenience and necessity for approximately 44 miles of pipeline and two compressors that will loop and expand existing facilities, and provides an additional 204,099 dekatherms per day of capacity. While I fully support the order, I take this opportunity to expound upon the benefits of this project not discussed in the order.

In prior meetings of the Commission, I have expressed my views on the benefits of hydroelectric projects in relation to the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1</sup> The issue is of no less importance when balancing the impacts of a natural gas pipeline project. It is clear and convincing to me during the debate for upgrading the infrastructure in the transportation of natural gas as well as reliability in the energy industry, that the benefits of avoiding greenhouse gas emissions must be used in balancing the impacts for the ultimate decision by this Commission.

In all facets of regulating energy projects, this Commission takes into consideration an enormous amount of information provided through environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. Literally, no rock is left unturned in efforts to discover any negative environmental impacts of a particular project, whether hydroelectric facility or pipeline construction project. By the same token, the positive environmental impacts in relation to the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions deserve and are due equal air time. I refuse to be selective or have an appearance of bias when balancing environmental impacts of projects which come before this Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Avista Corporation, 90 FERC ¶ 61,167 (Feb. 23, 2000) and Curtis/Palmer Hydroelectric Company LP, 91 FERC ¶ 61,112 (April 27, 2000).

By this project providing 204,099 dekatherms per day of new firm capacity, approximately 515,700 to 894,500 metric tons of carbon **per year** of greenhouse gas emissions can be avoided. While it is obvious that no calculation can be exact, the estimates provided to me are based on reasonable assumptions and formulas that are accepted industry-wide. The substantial benefits of this project justify turning up the volume of my position as it relates to the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions, even though natural gas combustion releases carbon dioxide. The lower emission rate of natural gas in comparison to other fossil fuels is the step in the right direction. Improving and strengthening our energy mix will pay dividends this country has yet to see through the implementation of a coherent and identifiable energy policy.

I respectfully concur,

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Commissioner Curt Hébert, Jr.